

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 OPR-02 A-01

L-03 NIC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 OMB-01 /111 W

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R 300900Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5352

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJ: SKILLFUL HIGHJACKINGS DISRUPT DUBLIN

1. ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS, 16 BUSES AND TRUCKS WERE HIGHJACKED THIS MORNING ON DUBLIN STREETS. EACH WAS PLANTED WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE BOMB; VEHICLES WERE THEN PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS, DISRUPTING MORNING TRAFFIC. IN EACH CASE BOMBS TURNED OUT TO BE FAKE. HAD THEY BEEN GENUINE, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD GOOD CHANCE OF CAUSING INJURY.

2. SO FAR, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION. APPEARS THAT PERPETRATORS WANTED TO SCORE A POINT WITHOUT CAUSING THE KIND OF MASSIVE PUBLIC REACTION THAT WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED REAL BOMBINGS. IRA IS OBVIOUS SUSPECT, AS IT CLEARLY HAS CAPACITY TO PLAN AND CARRY OUT SUCH PROJECTS. PROVOS MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATING AT GOI FAILURE TO TAKE INTEREST IN CASE OF PRICE SISTERS, WHO ARE JAILED IN ENGLAND. (IRA HAS BEEN PUSHING CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC SYMPATHY, WITH LIMITED SUCCESS.) ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS, WHO WOULD SEEM TO HAVE MORE TO GAIN THAN PROVOS. IF PROTESTANTS CAN OPERATE SKILLFULLY ON THIS SCALE, HOWEVER,

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WOULD HAVE TO REVISE OUR ESTIMATE OF THEIR ABILITY TO CREATE

TROUBLE IN DUBLIN. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT NI PROTESTANTS COULD
CARRY OUT MINOR INCIDENTS ANY TIME, BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE
DIFFICULTY MOUNTING LARGE OR SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, TRUCKS, TRAFFIC SAFETY, BOMBING
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Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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